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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/605,582	10/09/2003	Kotesh Kummamuri Rao		2581

30024 7590 09/27/2007

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EXAMINER	
SERROU, ABDELALI	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2626	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
09/27/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/605,582	RAO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Abdelali Serrou	2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *17 July 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-6* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-6* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over makagon et al. (hereinafter, Makagon, U.S 7,222,301) in view of Blum et al. (hereinafter, Blum, U.S 6,982,649).

As per claim 1, Makagon teaches:

an information processing system including an equipment controller and at least one fixed point wireless communications access station, the information processing system receiving and processing data or commands from one or more wireless communications access station relating to said machinery or equipment, and the controller controlling operation of the machinery or equipment in response to data or commands from the information processing system; and a voice-responsive computing/communications device (col. 4, line 64 – col. 5, line 11), said device providing speech recognition (recognizing speech input, col. 4, lines 6-7) and adaptively providing background noise suppression to reduce or substantially eliminate non-speech ambient background noise (inherently disclosed within the process of recognizing speech), wherein the voice-responsive/communications device is in wireless communication (col. 5, line 25) with the information processing system via at least one fixed point wireless communications access station and is responsive to one or more vocal utterances of a user for

communicating data to the information processing system and/or generating operational control commands to provide to the equipment controller for controlling said machinery or equipment (col. 4, line 64 – col. 5, line 22, especially col. 5, lines 11-22, wherein one or more utterances (speech) are communicated via wireless network to the central applications for recognizing the speech and generating VXML scripts and playing them as synthesized scripts media).

Makagon does not explicitly teach background noise suppression to reduce or substantially eliminate non-speech ambient background noise.

Blum in the same field of endeavor teaches background noise suppression to reduce or substantially eliminate non-speech ambient background noise (col. 8, lines 38-39).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine Blum's noise suppressor with the system of Makagon, because this would enhance the sound quality and provide a better speech recognition.

As per claim 2, Makagon teaches wherein said information processing system comprises a local area network (LAN) (col. 9, lines 23-24).

As per claim 3, Makagon does not explicitly teach a directional microphone.

Blum in the same field of endeavor teaches a directional microphone (col. 8, lines 33-34).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine Blum's directional microphone with the voice-responsive computing/communications device of Makagon, because this would enhance the sound quality and provide a better speech recognition.

As per claim 4, Makagon teaches a wireless communications network (WLAN) that permits digital communications with at least one remote private network or computer facility (col. 5, lines 23-29).

As per claim 5, Makagon teaches wherein the wireless communication network comprises at least one antenna assembly having a transceiver system for transmitting and receiving signals from at least one wireless communications LAN access station (inherently disclosed for receiving wireless electromagnetic signals and processing communication information).

As per claim 6, Makagon teaches wherein said at least one remote private network or computer facility comprises a network server computer communicatively coupled to said voice-responsive computing/communications device via the wireless communications network, said server computer including a database for storing application data accessible by a user of said voice-responsive computing/communications device (col. 8, lines 24-43).

Conclusion

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Pyotsia et al. (U.S 7,010,294) teach a wireless control of a field device in an industrial process. Petrie (U.S 6,882,904) teaches a communication and control network for distributed power resource units. Ying (U.S 6,757,521) teaches a method and system for locating and assisting portable devices performing remote diagnostic analysis of a control network.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Abdelali Serrou whose telephone number is 571-272-7638. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David R. Hudspeth can be reached on 571-272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A. Serrou
9/18/07

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DAVID HUDSPETH
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